

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4382

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCLANT

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1639

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PINS, MILI, AO

SUBJ: OBSERVATIONS OF CATHOLIC CHURCH OFFICIAL: SOUTHEASTERN ANGOLA

1. ON OCTOBER 23 THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IN ANGOLA, MONSIGNOR GIOVANNI DE ANDREA, VISITED THE CONSULATE GENERAL. HE HAD JUST MADE AN EXTENSIVE TRIP THROUGH MUCH OF CENTRAL AND AND SOUTHEASTERN ANGOLA. THE INTERESTING PORTIONS OF HIS COMMENTS FOLLOW:

2. HE SAID THAT IN ANTICIPATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA, HE HAD BEEN INSTALLED HERE SO THAT CATHOLIC CHURCH ACTIVITIES WOULD BE DIRECTED FROM ROME RATHER THAN THROUGH LISBON. IN AN EFFORT TO RESTORE ORDER AND INSTALL BISHOPS IN FOUR NEWLY CREATED DIOCESES, HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN TRAVELING EXTENSIVELY THROUGH ANGOLA. HE VISITED THE SOUTHEASTERN EXTREME OF CUANDO CUBANGO DISTRICT INCLUDING CUANGAR, DIRRICO AND MUCUSSO ALONG THE CUBANGO RIVER ON THE BORDER OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA'S CAPRIVI STRIP. THIS

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AREA IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF FNLA (CHIPENDA) AND UNITA

ALTHOUGH HE COMMENTED THAT THEY HAD VERY FEW TROOPS IN THE REGION. HE SAID THAT ABOUT 1,000 PORTUGUESE REFUGEES FROM MANY PARTS OF ANGOLA, INCLUDING AS FAR NORTH AS MALANGE, WERE CAMPED IN THREE GROUPS, TOTALLING 1,000, ALONG THE BORDER INSIDE ANGOLA EAST OF CUANGAR. HE SAID THAT CHPENDA HAD ENTARED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES TO THE END THAT THE REFUGEES WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED ACROSS THE FRONTIER. HE SAID THAT THEY WERE IN GOOD CONDITION, ACCUSTOMED IN ANY EVENT TO A HARD LIFE AND HAD AMPLE FOOD SUPPLIES WITH THM AND EVENTUALLY PLANNED TO RETURN TO HOMES IN ANGOLA. MONSIGNOR ALSO DROVE IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE SANDY ROAD FROM CUANGAR (17 42 S - 18 42 E) TO SERPA PINTO (14 40S - 17 47 E). HE SAID THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE JOURNEY HE DID NOT SEE ANY ROADBLOCKS OR CHECKPOINTS BUT THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CHECKPOINTS AS HE TRAVELED NORTHWESTERLY, AND NORTH IN THE DIRECTION OF CENTRAL ANGOLA AT EACH SIGNIFICANT INTERSECTION. THE CHECKPOINTS WERE ALTERNATELY FNLA AND UNITA. THE MONSIGNOR ALSOQHAD VISITED HENRIQUE DE CARVALHO AND STATED THAT HE SAW A NUMBER OF CUBANS THERE. IN SW ANGOLA HE SAW "WHITE MERCENARIES.

3. HE SAID THAT A COLUMM OF TRUCKS LOADED WITH FOOD PROCEEDING RECENTLY SOUTH FROM HENRIQUE DE CARVALHO TO LUSO HAD NEVER REACHED LUSO, WHICH, HE SAID, WAS HELD BY KATANGESE GENDARMES, BUT ENCIRCLED BY UNITA FORCES. THE MONSIGNOR STATED THAT THE LAST THREE IRISH NUNS FROM THE MISSION AT ROCADAS (16 43 S - 14 59 E) HAD DEPARTED ANGOLA FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA. WHILE IN SOUTHEASTERN ANGOLA THE MONSIGNOR WES PERMITTED BY SWA AUTHORITIES TO CROSS THE SOUTHWEST AFRICAN FRONTIER AND VISI CATHOLIC MISSIONS THERE. HE CALLED ON A NUMBER OF MISSION STAFFERS TO RETURN TO THEIR STATIONS IN SOUTHWESTERN ANGOLA, LARGELY BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THAT ANY WHO WERE OUTSIDE ANGOLA AFTER INDEPENDENCE WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN RETURNING.

KILLORAN

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